

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 14 are independent. In the Office Action dated January 18, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,000,178 ("*Messinger*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,080,327 ("*Bartz*").

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 to clarify the claimed invention. No new subject matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 23, paragraph 91, and at page 24, paragraph 92. Applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims 2-13 and 15-24 overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Specifically, amended independent claims 1 and 14 recite, among other things, "a first pane displaying an active roadmap of two or more of the ordered steps of a particular task and for indicating a selected one of the two or more ordered steps, wherein at least one step not previously performed and not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps of the particular task is selectable by a user." This process allows the user to proceed or skip directly to a later step in the sequence of ordered steps of a particular task, where the later step is not yet performed and not immediately following the currently selected step. (See Applicants' disclosure, at page 23, paragraph 91.) The ability to skip to an unperformed step of the particular task is advantageous because "[a]s users become more proficient with the system, the present

disclosure contemplates that users may reduce the level of guidance provided by the interface. Thus, user interfaces designed according to the teachings of the disclosure provide simple, low-level guidance to new users, [while] allowing the user to tailor the system as his experience increases.” (See Applicants’ disclosure, at page 10, paragraph 49.)

The Examiner conceded that *Messinger* fails to show or suggest the above feature. Instead, the Examiner contended that *Bartz* shows this feature because a microcontroller design tool allows a user to “move from the Debugger subsystem back to the Device Editor system without having to pass through the Application Editor system.” Office Action, page 3. Contrary to the Examiner’s contention, Applicants submit that the subsystems of *Bartz* are not “ordered steps of a particular task” as recited in amended claim 1, but are rather components of the microcontroller design tool responsible for handling discrete functionalities such as “program functionality 330” and “debug 360.” See FIG. 3. *Bartz* merely provides icons in connection with each of these subsystems on its display, which are “always active, regardless of which task is being performed.” Col. 8, lines 49-66. Nowhere in *Bartz* is it shown or suggested that “two or more of the ordered steps of a particular task” is displayed to the user in “an active roadmap” for the benefit of showing the user the relationship of the ordered steps of the particular task and for “indicating a selected one of the two or more ordered steps” of the particular task that the user is currently performing. *Bartz* also fails to show or suggest that “at least one step not previously performed and not immediately following

the selected step in the ordered steps of the particular task is selectable by a user," as recited in amended claim 1. *Bartz*, therefore, fails to cure the deficiency of *Messenger*.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least because both *Messenger* and *Bartz* fail to show or suggest every feature of amended independent claims 1 and 14, the combination of *Messenger* and *Bartz* cannot render obvious amended claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2-13 and 15-24 depend from independent claims 1 and 14, respectively, and are, therefore, also not rendered obvious by the combination of references under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

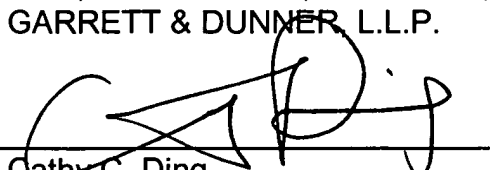
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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